

## **USDA PROVIDES ASSISTANCE WITH DAMAGE CAUSED BY TYPHOON CHATAÁN.**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) provided financial and technical assistance to help with the reconstruction of a Typhoon Chataán damaged slope located on Chalan Pale Eugenio Lago in the village of Santa Rita. This project was planned, designed and constructed under the authority of the USDA-NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program. The final construction cost for the project was \$160,000. USDA NRCS funded 100% of the construction and provided all technical assistance (planning, engineering, and contract administration).

In July of 2002, winds and rain from Typhoon Chataán toppled a large tree near Chalan Pale Eugenio Lago in Santa Rita. The tree deflected outfall from a storm drain. Large amounts of soil were washed or slipped away reducing the support for the street. Sewer and water lines run beneath the street. Five homes at the end of Chalan Pale Eugenio Lago would lose all vehicle access should the road fail.

In August, 2002, Acting Director Jesse Garcia, Department of Public Works (DPW) signed a request for USDA-NRCS to provide assistance under the EWP program.. A request for funding was sent to NRCS National Headquarters in Washington, DC. Funding was received on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2002. The site was surveyed in August. The project design was completed by the USDA-NRCS Pacific Basin Area Engineering staff on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2002.. A project agreement was signed by Governor Felix Camacho and Joan Perry, Director of USDA NRCS Pacific Basin Area on March 21, 2003. The Government of Guam Department of Public Works obtained the necessary permits and rights of way. Seventeen potential bidders attended the site showing (pre-bid conference) on April 23, 2003. A Federal construction contract was awarded to the low bidder (Hawaiian Rock Products) on June 3, 2003. Construction commenced shortly thereafter and work was completed and accepted by USDA-NRCS on July 29, 2003.

The purpose of the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program is to relieve imminent threats to life and property resulting from sudden watershed impairments brought on by weather or other natural events (typhoons, storms, fires, earthquakes, tsunamis, etc.) To be eligible for assistance under the program a site

must have a governmental sponsor, and be economically, environmentally, and culturally defensible.

The primary point of contact for all USDA NRCS assistance on Guam is the Barrigada Field Office located at the Barrigada Plaza on Route 8. They work closely with Guam's two Soil and Water Conservation Districts to provide assistance solving the Island's resource problems. The Conservation Districts hold monthly meetings open to the public.

For additional information on the Emergency Watershed Program (EWP), please visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ewp/>.

Photo #1	Damaged slope on Chalan Pale Eugenio Lago at the start of construction.
Photo #2	Completed Slope Reconstruction Project on Chalan Pale Eugenio Lago. (from left to right, Barbara Aflague, USDA-NRCS, Romy Batac, Hawaiian Rock Products, Tommy Young, Hawaiian Rock Products, Jeffrey Wheaton, USDA-NRCS, Taek Hwang, C.H. Equipment Rental & Construction)

Photos provided by USDA-NRCS





